

Semi annual USAID progress report

Project “Strengthening capacities of civil society organizations in the issue of Security”.

In accordance with the terms of reference in the project document Strengthening Capacities of Guatemalan Civil Society in issues of Security, GUA/003/RA1, approved on August 19, 2003 in the presence of representatives from USAID, UNOPS, WSP and FOSS, the following steps were taken:

- I. Civil Society organizations that work in the area of security were invited to express their interest in participating in the coordinating commission of the Democratic Security Studies Program (Estudios de Seguridad Democrática - PESD), and the following organizations responded affirmatively:
 1. Association for Social Investigation and Studies (Asociación de Investigación y Estudios Sociales - ASIES)
 2. Center for Guatemalan Studies (Centro de Estudios de Guatemala - CEG)
 3. Latin American Social Sciences Faculty (Facultad Latinoamérica de Ciencias Sociales - FLACSO)
 4. Relatives and Friends against Disappearance and Kidnapping (Familiares y Amigos contra la Desaparición y el Secuestro - FADS)
 5. Myrna Mack Foundation (Fundación Mirna Mack - FMM)
 6. Democratic Lobby (Incidencia Democrática - ID)
 7. Teaching Institute for Sustainable Development (Instituto de Enseñanza para el Desarrollo Sostenible - IEPADES)
 8. Guatemalan Institute of Compared Studies in Penal Sciences (Instituto de Estudios Comparados en Ciencias Penales de Guatemala - ICCPG)
 9. Security in Democracy (Seguridad en Democracia - SEDEM)
 10. Rafael Landivar University (Universidad Rafael Landivar - URL)
 11. Project toward a Citizen Security Policy (Proyecto Hacia una Política de Seguridad Ciudadana - POLSEC)
- II. The Project's Technical Secretary and Administrative Secretary were selected and contracted.
- III. The process of strategic planning was begun, which included contracting the services of Lic. Francisco Leal.

- IV. The format and contents of the project document were adapted for broad dissemination among the participating organizations, to serve as the initial basis in the strategic planning process.
- V. Several work meetings were held with the facilitator in charge of the strategic planning process, in order to determine the basis and contents of the planning exercise to be carried out.
- VI. Several meetings were held with representatives of WSP, IGEDEP and FOSS in order to reach a common understanding regarding the execution of the project.
- VII. The Project was presented before USAID officials and members of the Military Mission of the US Embassy in Guatemala.
- VIII. A joint meeting was held with representatives of the Defence Ministry of the United Kingdom, with the presence of members of the PESD Coordinating Commission, to discuss the possibility of their participation in a specialized Seminar on the issue of Democratic Security, to be held in late February, 2004, organized by the Preparatory Commission of the Security Advisory Council (CPCAS) of Guatemala.
- IX. A meeting was held with UNOPS officials to request approval for possible budget adjustments.
- X. The first Strategic Planning session for the Democratic Security Studies Program was held on October 16, 2003, with the participation of representatives of all of the organizations in the PESD's Coordinating Commission, as well as representatives from IGEDEP and USAID.
- XI. The second and final session of the Strategic Planning process was held on October 23, 2003; the PESD's Coordinating Commission was designated, and regulations were approved for financing projects.
- XII. Coordinating meetings were held with representatives from UNOPS, WSP, USAID and FOSS to prepare the official act for the presentation of the project.
- XIII. An official project meeting and call for the presentation of proposals were held on November 14, 2003, with the presence of the US ambassador to Guatemala, the Latin America director of WSP, the representative of the resident coordinator of the United Nations Organization in Guatemala, the Defense Minister, the President and Vice President of IGEDEP, the Director of FOSS, all of the members of the

Coordinating Commission of the Democratic Security Studies Program, and the members of the Preparatory Commission for the Security Advisory Council.

- XIV. The first meeting of the PESD's Coordinating Commission was held to review the initial project proposals, to reflect on the approved methodology for its evaluation and selection, as well as to consider aspects that would facilitate the approval process.
- XV. A work meeting was held with the members of the Council of Directors of IGEDEP, to present them with the legal documentation supporting the foundation's legal status, which had been prepared, legalized and approved during the two previous months; the meeting served also to reflect on the methodology to be applied in approving proposals. During the same meeting, the Council of Directors of IGEDEP named their representative before the Democratic Security Studies Program, which was noted by the Director of FOSS.
- XVI. The process has begun for selecting and evaluating the proposals handed in to date.

Supporting documents related to the above-mentioned steps taken are included for consultation in an attached dossier.